

Hilary Masters:

An Inventory of his Manuscripts at the Harry Ransom Center

Descriptive Summary

Creator	Masters, Hilary, 1928-2015
Title:	<i>The Common Pasture</i> Manuscripts
Dates:	1965-1968
Extent:	1.5 boxes (.62 linear feet)
Abstract:	This collection consists of typescripts, drafts, galley proofs, filmscripts, and scenic production notes for <i>The Common Pasture</i> .
Call Number:	Manuscript Collection MS-04992
Language:	English
Access	Open for research

Administrative Information

Acquisition	Gift, 1968
Processed by	Christopher D. Filippi, April 1995
Repository:	Harry Ransom Center, The University of Texas at Austin

Biographical Sketch

Hilary Masters (1928-2015), author and lecturer, was born in Kansas City, Missouri, to writer Edgar Lee Masters and his wife, Ellen (Coyne) Masters. Masters attended Davidson College from 1944 to 1946. He interrupted his education to serve as a naval correspondent from 1946 to 1947, and then graduated from Brown University in 1952.

Masters had a varied literary career. He began a career as a theatrical agent in New York from 1953 to 1956 and later was a newspaper editor and publisher for the *Hyde Park Record* from 1956 to 1959. During the 1970s and 1980s, Masters was a visiting scholar at such institutions as Drake University (1975-1977), Clark University (1978), Ohio University (1979), and also served as a Fulbright lecturer in Finland (1983) and at Carnegie-Mellon University (1983-2015).

In addition to these pursuits, Masters wrote several novels, including *The Common Pasture* (1967), *An American Marriage* (1969), *Palace of Strangers* (1971), as well as *Last Stands: Notes from Memory*, a 1982 autobiographical account of his family history. Masters' short fiction has been published in a variety of journals, including *Greensboro Review*, *Massachusetts Review*, *Ohio Review*, and *Sports Illustrated*.

Hilary Masters was a member of the Authors Guild, the Author's League of America, and the Association of Poets, Playwrights, Editors, Essayists, and Novelists. He died on June 14, 2015.

Scope and Contents

One and a half document boxes contain typescripts, drafts, galley proofs, filmscripts, and scenic production notes for Masters' first novel, *The Common Pasture* (1967), dating 1965-68.

The collection consists of a succession of five typescript drafts of the novel, arranged chronologically from original to final version. All of the drafts are heavily revised with corrections by the author, as well as printer's and editor's marks on the final draft.

The collection also contains two typescript drafts of the screenplay, both with the author's revision, and typescript scene sketches for a film. The latter is prefaced by the notes of the producer, Jaqueline Baxlin, indicating script and plot changes. It is not clear whether this film was ever completed.

There is no material in the collection relating to Masters' other literary works or to his personal life. No correspondence is present.

Index Terms

Subjects

Authors, American

Film Adaptations

Document Types

Filmscripts

Galley proofs

Scenarios

The Common Pasture (1967)

First draft typescript with holograph revisions, February 1965	box 1 folder 1-2
Revised typescript version, 1965	folder 3
Second revised version, 1965	folder 4
Bound typescript, Spring 1965	folder 5
Printer's copy, 1967 (1 of 2)	folder 6
Printer's copy, 1967 (2 of 2)	box 2 folder 1
Galley proof, 1967 (removed to galley file)	
Filmscript draft with holograph revisions, 1968	folder 2
First draft of filmscript, 1968	folder 3
Scene sketches with production notes, 1968	folder 4